

What is claimed is:

1. A golf club head comprising:

5 a hollow metal body having a heel end, a toe end, a forward end and a rear end,
said hollow metal body including a face proximal the forward end adapted for impacting a
golf ball, a crown, a skirt, and a sole plate, the sole plate being smoothly contoured and
devoid of any mass concentrations;

a hosel adjacent the body heel end for receiving a shaft, said shaft having an axis;

10 said hollow metal body having a volume of greater than 400 cubic centimeters and
a center of gravity located generally closer to the heel end than to the toe end and generally
nearer the forward end than the rear end; and

the center of gravity being located within a region 2.1 ± 2.0 millimeters above a
horizontal plane passing through the center of the face, 16.0 ± 4.0 millimeters toward the
15 rear end from a vertical plane containing the shaft axis that is parallel to a horizontal line
tangent to the center of the face, and 36.0 ± 6.0 millimeters toward the toe end from a
plane containing the shaft axis that is normal to the vertical plane.

2. The golf club head of claim 1, wherein:

20 the face has a surface area of least 29 square centimeters.

3. The golf club head of claim 2, wherein:

the face has a surface area from 29 to 36 square centimeters.

25

4. The golf club head of claim 1, wherein:

the center of gravity is from 1.0 to 3.0 millimeters above the horizontal plane passing through the center of the face.

5

5. The golf club head of claim 1, wherein:

the face has a thickness that tapers from a maximum thickness of 4.0 ± 1.5 millimeters proximal the center of the face to a minimum thickness of 2.5 ± 1.0 millimeters proximal the perimeter of the face.

10

6. The golf club head of claim 1, wherein:

said hollow metal body has a moment of inertia of at least 1250 Kg-cm^2 about a vertical axis through the center of gravity.

15 7. The golf club head of claim 1, wherein:

said hollow metal body has a moment of inertia of at least 800 Kg-cm^2 about a horizontal axis parallel to said horizontal line tangent to the center of the face through the center of gravity.

20 8. The golf club head of claim 1, wherein:

the sole plate has a thickness that ranges from 1.2 to 0.7 millimeters in thickness.